

REMARKS

Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17-21, and 23 are pending. Claims 7, 8, 10, and 14 have been allowed. Claims 3 and 5 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 7. Applicants therefore submit that these claims are also allowable.

In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 16-21 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to recite the features of their base and intervening claims. Claims 17-21 have been rewritten in this manner and claim 15 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 16. Claims 15 and 17-21 have also been amended to improve antecedent basis of various terms, to remove superfluous language that may detract from clarity, and to make the claims language more consistent in their presently rewritten form. Applicants submit that these amendments present no new issues as they are made merely to clarify the subject matter that the Examiner indicated to be allowable.

Finally, new claim 23 was added to depend from claim 7. Because the addition of this claim does not cause the total number of claims to exceed the number of finally rejected claims, and because the amendments presented herein are made merely for clarification purposes and therefore do not raise any new issues, it is respectfully submitted that entry of this paper is proper.

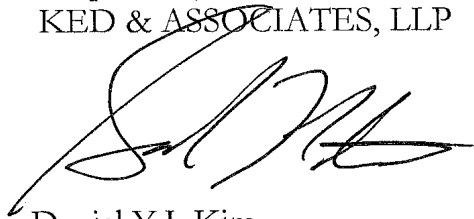
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Serial No.10/677,383
Amendment dated March 31, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2008

Docket No. K-0540

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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